

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 04604 110709Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15  
SAA-01 SSM-05 EUR-12 SES-02 (ISO) W  
-----043044 111121Z /11

P R 110608Z AUG 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9162  
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AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USICA WASHDC  
USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 4604

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: SOPN, SY, US, EG  
SUBJECT: SYRIA ATTACKS TRIPARTITE SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY: A SYRIAN PRESS HAS REACTED ANGRILY TO SADAT'S AGREEMENT TO ATTEND A TRIPARTITE SUMMIT AT CAMP DAVID. EDITORIALS INDICATE THAT SYRIA WAS PREPARED TO RECONCILE WITH SADAT IF HE ABANDONED HIS INITIATIVE, BUT HIS AGREEMENT FOR FURTHER DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS IS SEEN AS CONFIRMATION THAT SADAT IS NOT A MAN TO BE TRUSTED. SPECTRE IS AGAIN RAISED THAT SADAT WILL SELL OUT ARABS. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE LEBANESE DEVELOPMENTS DOMINATE FRONT PAGES, PRESS AUGUST 9 CARRIES FACTUAL REPORTS ON SADAT'S AGREEMENT TO MEET CARTER AND BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER. EDITORIALS, HOWEVER, REACT BITTERLY TOWARD THIS LATEST MOVE. TISHRIIN SAYS THAT THE MEETING "CAN IN NO WAY SERVE THE CAUSE OF A JUST PEACE  
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IN THE MIDDLE EAST?" SUMMIT, IT CLAIMS, CAN ONLY "IMPOSE CAPITULATION AND HUMILIATION UPON THE ARABS." SADAT'S DECISION IS CHARACTERIZED AS "GOING BEYOND ANY POSSIBILITY THAT WAS PRESENT FOR REESTABLISHING LINKS WITH THE ARABS" BUT SHOWS THAT HE PREFERS TO SUBORDINATE HIMSELF TO THE US RATHER THAN TO RETURN TO ARAB RANKS. IT DECLARES THAT THOSE ARABS WHO THOUGHT SADAT WOULD RECONCILE WITH HIS

FELLOW ARABS MUST NOW KNOW THAT "THIS IS MERE WISHFUL THINKING...SADAT IS NO LONGER RELIABLE AND HIS WORDS AND PROMISES ARE NO LONGER VALID...ANY NEW CALL TO DISCUSS PUTTING THE ARAB HOUSE IN ORDER BY TAKING THE SADAT REGIME INTO ACCOUNT WILL HENCEFORTH BE NOTHING MORE THAN OVERT COLLUSION WITH THE POLICY OF SUBORDINATION TO THE US AND CAPITULATION TO ISRAEL."

3. A SECOND EDITORIAL IN THE SAME PAPER TAKES A LESS EMOTIONAL AND MORE MEASURED APPROACH. IT NOTES THAT SADAT'S STRATEGY IS TO MAKE THE US A FULL PARTNER IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO FORCE BEGIN TO ABANDON HIS INTERPRETATION OF UNSC RES. 242 AND GIVE SADAT'S INITIATIVE RENEWED MOMENTUM. SADAT, IT IS CLAIMED, ON THAT BASIS WOULD ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF MINOR BORDER MODIFICATIONS AND THE ROAD WOULD BE CLEAR TO ARRIVE AT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES "PARTICULARLY AFTER SADAT HAS FORMALLY AGREED TO REJECT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE AND TO SEEK A MODERATE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PLO." EDITORIAL REJECTS THIS SCENARIO AND SAYS A JUST PEACE WILL NOT COME ABOUT ON THIS BASIS.

4. BAATH SAVES MOST OF ITS AMMUNITION FOR THE US WHICH IT SEES AS STRINGING OUT THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE ARABS. ACCORDING TO AL-BAATH, "SHUTTLE TOURS AND CHANGING VENUES FOR PUBLIC AND SECRET MEETINGS ARE ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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FUTILE...TO SAY THAT AMERICA IS SINCERE TO BRING ABOUT PEACE IN THE AREA WILL FOOL NO ONE." EDITORIAL WARNS AGAINST "A PLOT" WHICH IS INTENDED TO PERMIT ISRAEL TO WIN A QUICK MILITARY VICTORY"WHICH IS ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE AMERICAN PLAN AND FOR WHICH AN ARSENAL HAS BEEN PREPARED." THE US IS WARNED THAT IT IS PLAYING WITH FIRE.  
SEELYE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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